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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, January 8,
1798, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Albe. Jany. 8. 1798.

Dear Sir

I have yours of the 27 Decr. for which I thank you. I have made some comments on one item in it to a person who will probably see you.

I rejoice that the land tax is postponed, & hope when revived it will be under the auspices of those who have imposed on the publick the necessity of such an increase of their burden. It woud. be entertaining to see the friends of an accumulation of the debt in principle, who have benefitted by it also in practice, standing aloof, or modestly opposing such a tax, whilst the economic part of the legislature who had opposed the accumulation of debt, took the lead in providing the tax, and with it the odium attending the provision. This is not the natural course of things, nor woud. the effect be salutary. Direct taxes must be laid nut let them proceed from the quarter whence all mischief has proceeded.

The context between a bar majority in the reps. agnst the Senate & President, exhibits an interesting spectacle. The details you have been so kind as not give cause to hope, the result will be on the right side. But still we have been going wrong so long, under

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circumstances too more favorable than the present, that we ought not to be too sanguine. I heartily wish the session was closed,

for I expect no good from it. Indeed the only hope is to prevent harm.

You will have seen the resolutions of our assembly upon the petition from our district. I think the resolutions sound and well drawn. I hope the measures of the district & assembly will produce a good effect, generally.

I write you only to acknowledge the receipt of yours: to tell you we are well. Still on the no. side of the mountain and likely to be so on yr. return & to assure you that I am sir, yr. friend & servant Jas. Monroe

[P.S.]

I have requested Mr. D. to confer with you whether my coming up will be useful in any view in respect to public or private concerns.

You have seen the discovery of a plot I had laid for blowing up the admn. by correcting the misrepresentation of the English prints, in handing to my countrymen occasionally a sketch of the French revolution to be printed in Bache's paper. I really suspect the project alarmed them for they have wished to monopolize the publick mind to themselves, wh. they cod. not do, but by keeping the people ignorant of their affrs. For the chief of the admn deems it harmless to trample on the constitution, by ripping the channel of a publick minister, & carry on an intrigue with the British govt.

RC (Jefferson papers, Library of Congress).